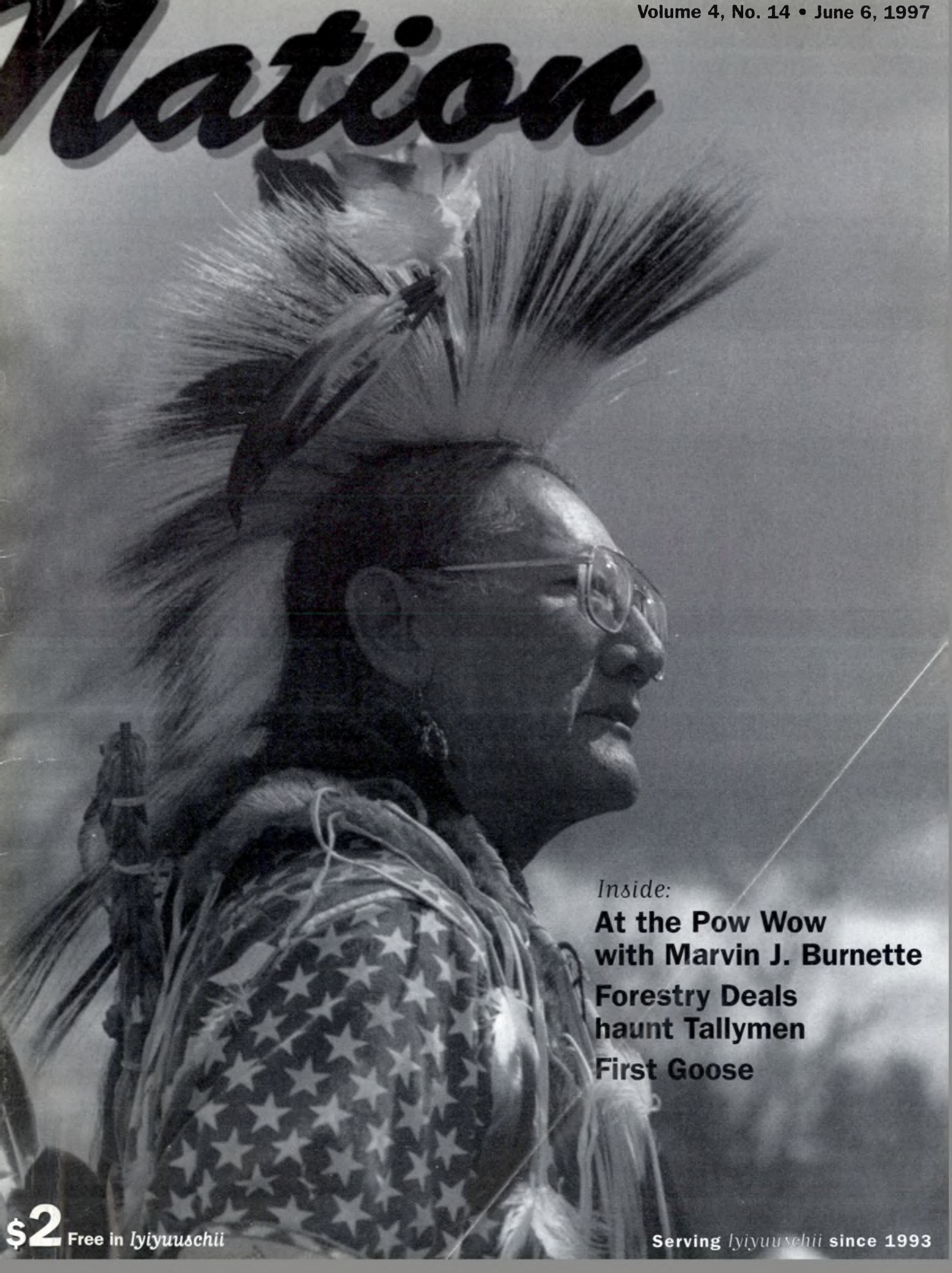
Volume 4, No. 14 • June 6, 1997

# Nation



*Inside:*

**At the Pow Wow with Marvin J. Burnette**

**Forestry Deals haunt Tallymen**

**First Goose**

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# Our song will be sung

*...nothing I say helps, and being silent does not calm my pain.*
Job 16.6

There was once a Cree shaman who dreamt of a rock island with tall trees appearing in the distance, with thunder booming in the sky.

A week following the dream, the Shaman's people heard the same ominous thunder. It frightened everyone except the Shaman.

He paddled his canoe in the direction of the great noise, only to discover a tall wooden ship firing off its cannons. He kept his distance. When the crew frantically waved for him to approach, he cautiously boarded the vessel.

The Captain, using sign language, told the shaman he wanted the furs he was wearing in exchange for his European clothes. The captain introduced him to the gun. Inevitably, he was given a few shots of "firewater." He paddled back to the camp and told the people of his exploits. Soon afterwards, every canoe in the camp was dispatched to meet the ship. The crew was standing in formation along the deck singing "Alouette..."

The story teller, Andrew Natachequan, understands neither French nor English, yet sings the song Alouette as it was heard and remembered. This is a story being passed orally from generation to generation among the Cree people. It was the first contact the Iyiyuuch had with the French people. Although the captain was able to make himself understood, from that day there was a misunderstanding. A misunderstanding that continues to this day.

We call ourselves Iyiyuuch, the people, (pronounced Ee-yooch) we are commonly known as Cree. We live on land we call Iyiyuuschii, The peoples' land. Since 1670 Iyiyuuschii has been transferred from King to King right down to the present day governments without the knowledge or consent of the people. Oblivious to the kings and powers that be, intentional or not, a system in place for thousands of years was quietly maintained by the people. Perhaps, too quietly.

We are a society with laws for governing ourselves and our land. That has yet to be recognized. The political battles being fought today are no different than the battles fought on the plains of Abraham. Granted there is no bloodshed in the courtrooms or boardrooms, but the outcome is no less different. The natives always lose.

In today's enlightened world one would think logic, common sense and equality would win the day. One would think wrong. In the Crees' fight against the first phase of the Hydro projects in the '70s, the government tried to prove in the courts that we were no longer a nation because we had the audacity to eat chicken. To justify an invasion by the invaders based on diet seemed quite a stretch to me. By that logic, whoever eats at MacDonalds must be an American!

The Cree or Iyiyuu nation located in eastern James Bay is made up of hunting territories covering an area of 175,000 square miles. Within each of these territories, whole families have lived and passed the land intact from generation to generation. Each territory has a name. Every creek, lake, hill and land formation has a name. These names have been passed down through the millennia. We will not soon forget.

Elijah Harper said "No" to Meech lake for a reason. Not to spite the French and certainly not to humour the English. He said No, because there is so much that has yet to be understood.

For too long we have watched the bullies fight it out amongst themselves. It is our time. Our time to assert ourselves and our rights. The question remains: where do we fight the battle?

Hunters, trappers, fishermen — the people — will always be there. Their voices will be carried wherever the battle take us. In the courtrooms, in the Parliaments, in the boardrooms, on the Internet — in the words on the pages you are now reading — these are our new battlegrounds.

We are fighting because we have to, not because we want to. We are fighting in the hope that one day there will be recognition of who we are.

One day our song will be sung.

*Note: This editorial appeared in the Alliance Quebec publication "The Quebecer."*

by Ernest Webb

# Contents


NEWS

5 **Forestry Deals** — Income Security deducted?

5 **Mario Lord** — $10 000 later

7 **Goose hunt** — Hunt reports

INTERVIEW

10 **Odawa Pow wow** — Interview with Marvin Burnette

INTERVIEW

16 **Matthew Coon Come** — National Chief?

FORESTRY

19 **Three views** — on Waswanipi's issues

CLASSIFIEDS

22 **Need we say more?**


COVER PHOTO:
Marvin Burnette
Photo By: Neil Diamond
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

**Erland on his win-a-date contest with Andrea Segal**

I'm sooooo tiiiired. My last vacation, if it can even be called that, was no help. My brain and my body need to get away together, to rest and rejuvenate. My typing speed has slowed to about three words a minute. Why did I not get a warning on what to expect when I came to this planet. I would have cancelled my reservations. On the bright side, I've shed several pounds of very ugly fat cause I eat about once a week. Sometimes, when things are going well, three times a week. I'll have breakfast on Monday, lunch on Tuesday and dinner Friday evening.

That being said, a few items that are sure to interest several readers.

After recieving tons of submissions for the win-a-Date contest, a winner was chosen. **Erland Campbell**, who still owes me tons of cash by the way, tells of his date with Montrealer **Andrea Segal**:

*My win a date contest winner, Andrea Segal (Boy! is she tall!) and I enjoyed a pleasant night in Montreal. We started the evening by dining at the famous Bar-B-Barn. I had chicken and Andrea had ribs, and can she eat! For a 6' 1" frame she needs to!*

*She was quite interested in all the things I'm into so we talked mostly about me and my career. She is very intelligent and has a good sense of humour. After a pleasant meal we headed off to see "Breakdown" A thriller!, and a thriller it was because in one scene Andrea grabbed onto me as the thrill was too intense for her. She needed something strong to hold on to. I gladly obliged. She has a strong arm.*

*When the movie was done we headed off to Deja Vu for a nightcap. We couldn't talk too much as the music was too loud and we both were getting tired, so we left shortly after. I drove her home and thanked her for being so daring to venture out with me. All in all, it was an enjoyable evening and I would like to thank Mr. Neil "Skinner" Diamond of "The Nation" for this night on the town.*

*Also I hope all my fans in the North got a chance to see the movie, "Extreme News." I also wish to thank "The Nation" for being instrumental in giving me a chance to publicize my pursuit in music and acting. I would like to say hi to all the people I've met from the North, you know who you all are, and to Dale House of Chisasibi, "What's-ta-mattah?, ya yella?*

*Erland Campbell.*

He writes yet again:

*Hello all,*

*Just to let you know that I couldn't sleep last because I saw myself in Albert's movie, what a rush!!! I'm going to need _____, _____, _____ and _____ to overcome this fame thing. Someone please advise me where I can obtain a constant flow of these things, I was thinking perhaps Neil could help me.*

*On the brink, Erland.*

*You will notice the "first goose" story on page 7 has nothing on my home town of Waskaganish. People there have been extremely hard to reach lately. They have either been ordered by the authorities not to talk to the Nation or nobody's killed any geese yet. Very mysterious that place.

Ndiamon


the Nation

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# Forestry deals could cost tallymen

It's a classic give-with-one-hand-take-with-the-other situation. Encouraged by their chief, tallymen in Waswanipi agreed to take money from forestry companies that were cutting their land.

The money offered was no great sum, a pittance compared to the profits earned by the companies. But 20 years of clearcutting has left the land so devastated it can't sustain the hunting way of life of the Crees. Many tallymen felt they might as well get some benefit from the destruction.

What they weren't told is that the money could be considered as income under the rules of the Income Security Program. The ISP provides full-time trappers with a guaranteed income so they can stay in the bush.

Under the ISP's rules, trappers can hold a job when they're not in the bush, but 40 per cent of any outside earnings are deducted from their Income Security cheques.

The Income Security Board is now looking into whether this applies to the money the tallymen got from forestry companies. The amounts may be peanuts in the larger scheme of things, but to the tallymen these are not small amounts.

Most of the tallymen who signed deals —and not all did—are getting payments of $10,000 to $15,000. Forty per cent of that comes to $4,000 to $6,000. To the average tallyman who lives on $12,000 a year from Income Security, that means four to six months of lost income.

Meanwhile, what about the tallymen who refused to sign a deal or weren't offered one? Many saw traplines destroyed too. Now, they must bite their tongues as summer earnings get deducted from their Income Security.

When the agreements were first offered to the tallymen, no one bothered to tell them they risked losing nearly half the money. Maybe they didn't want to know.

"I think that was probably the last thing on the minds of everybody when that was negotiated," said Monique Carron, secretary-general of the Income Security Board. "I don't think anyone thought twice before taking the money," said Paul Dixon, Local CTA Officer. "They weren't warned. It was money coming. Just take it; don't think of the consequences. Like winning the 6/49."

The issue is a hot potato no one wants to want to touch. The Income Security Board hasn't exactly hurried to wade into the issue. Same for the Forestry Working Group, which coordinates the Cree anti-forestry campaign.

Carron claimed she only learned of the agreements a few months ago, more than a year after the money first started flowing into tallymen's pockets. She is now trying to find out more about the agreements, but said she hasn't gotten very far because of the secrecy that surrounds them.

The final decision is up to the Income Security Board, which has three Cree and three Quebec reps. For them, it all comes down to one question. If a trapper gets compensation for damages suffered, this is not considered income. Therefore, probably no deductions. But if it's something else, like say a user's fee, it would probably count as income. Which would mean deductions.

So which is it? Carron isn't sure. "It seems to be a combination of both," she said. "Everybody's got a different story about why the money is being paid."

by Alex Roslin

*More on forestry deals, p. 19*

# Mario Lord vs. Norbord

"Before our hunting ground was cut I felt like a millionaire. Now I feel like a shoeboy."

Mario Lord has lived in the bush since he was 8. At 29, he is now tallyman of the W-11B trapline. Mario says his trapline has changed since the days when his late grandfather lived and hunted there. Today, there aren't enough trees to sustain the way of life that has existed there since time immemorial. Mario no longer lives in the bush like before.

With three-quarters of his trapline cleared of trees, Mario took a stand last fall. He returned to the bush after spending some time outside the community and found forestry workers swarming all over his land.

"They were already starting cutting everything," he remembers. "They were trying to cut around my house again. They already did that before. They did a real clean-up there so I can't even use my first house. That's what they wanted to do again."

But this time, Mario would not just go along. "I got really mad about it."

He went over to the forestry crew and asked them to stop their work. This didn't have much effect, so Mario had to try something more drastic. "It seems like they didn't want to listen to me. I got really mad and, after, I went to stand in the trees they were supposed to cut. That's how I managed to stop them. I didn't use any violence, nothing."

After the confrontation, the company wanted to charge Mario for making threats and obstructing its work, but later dropped the complaint. But the incident also finally forced Norbord to start talking compensation with Mario.

Mario's late grandfather was still alive when Norbord (then it was Normick-Perron) first started cutting their land 12 years ago. Back then, there was talk of compensation but nothing materialized. "He waited and waited. Eventually he died and he never had anything," Mario said of his late grandfather.

"After 12 years, imagine how my land looks now."

Norbord finally gave in five months after the mini-standoff last fall. Mario got a cabin and $10,000 per year.

*-Alex Roslin*

## Not Parot

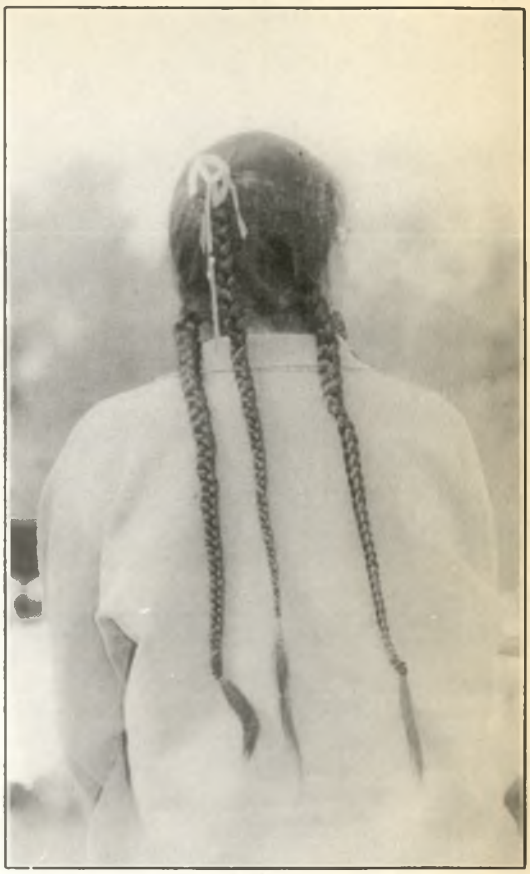
**Letter to *The Nation*:**

Please print this letter as a correction to the article titled, "Adopting Assimilation," which as featured in the March 28 issue of *The Nation*. I am the anonymous interviewee in the article written by Nakuset in which I used the alias Dakota.

In the interview I refer to my mother's father as having been a chief. It is my understanding that he was the chief of Cross Lake, rather than The Pas as was said in the article. The other detail is that I did not attend Parot School, even though it sounds funny. Ha, ha, good one.

Congratulations to Nakuset on her excellent work, and also to the rest of *The Nation* writers and staff for theirs.

**Dakota**



## The Fan

**Letter to *The Nation*:**

I cry, because I've seen enough injuries.

I cry, afraid of more to come.

I cry, because my **Canadiens** are being insulted.

I cry, because the coach gave up and the organization for trading their best players.

I cry, because my **Canadiens** have been hurt.

I cry, seeing so-called royal fans giving up on my **Canadiens**.

I cry, that the ghost has not helped my **Canadiens**.

I cry out to you my fellow diehard **Canadiens** fans for unity, and that I will no longer cry in sorrow.

I pray to the hockey Gods that my **Canadiens** will once again be victorious.

**Charlie J. Loon, Montreal Canadiens Fan**


**Maamuitaau**
On CBC TV

**June 21 and 22**
How far will a community go to keep it alcohol free. **Maamuitaau** brings you the story of Waskaganish and its unusual methods of stopping the flow of alcohol. Also on the show a visit with Cree elder Helen Whiskeychan.

**June 28 and 29**
A weighty decision has made a positive impact on the residents of Mistinissini. Youth from the community took the initiative in developing a new weight and activity centre with the help of the band council. **Maamuitaau** talks with Calvin Blacksmith about the new facilities. Also on the show a new information video on ways to stay physically active.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

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# I MUST TELL YOU ABOUT MY FIRST GOOSE...

by William Nicholls

It had been about fours years since I last hunted geese in the spring. It felt important to me as this was traditionally a time of celebration for the Crees. The harsh reality of the winter was over and the arrival of the geese was important to survival but also signaled the beginning of a time of plenty. A time when you knew you would see all the people together. A time to look forward to the summer and visiting. But also a time when you knew that all Crees were experiencing the same thing. Communities become ghost towns.

I must tell you about my first goose... this year. Aw, no, I wouldn't do that to you. I'm sure every hunter has reviewed and told his or her particular story over and over again. Just bother anyone, I'm sure they'll have the stories.

Instead let's look at the hunt overall. Most people I've talked to said they're happy but the goosehunt was poor to O.K. Weather was to blame for most of it. Every community brought this point up in some way.

Starting from the northernmost point along the coast, the first goose was taken in Whapmagoostui on April 27 by **John Rupert**. Rita Masty said her informal poll of residents tell us that while a lot of geese might have been seen they were flying too high. Weather was too blame also. Some hunters said there wasn't enough snow. It looked too much like summer. People said there were not enough or many kills. Everyone agreed though that Crees who hunted inland got more than those on the coast.

Heading to the inland, it was no big surprise to Mistissini residents that **Don MacLeod** killed the first goose of the year. Mistissini hunters say this year was poor to O.K., the weather was unpredictable and the geese started arriving when the official goosebreak was over.

Nemaska thinks the first goose was taken by **Johnny Tanoush** at Old Nemaska. Geese arrived late this year for residents. Some said no large flocks came their way.

Ouje-Bougoumou's **Walter Capissisit** had the honour of the first goose on April 16 at 4 p.m. O.J. residents say the geese weren't landing and they were flying high. The geese were also late and the hunt wasn't as good as previous years.

**Jackie Gull** took the first goose in Waswanipi. One trapper called it the coldest May on record. High winds caused the geese that did land to favour wooded areas, away from where hunters had set up blinds. The flying pattern was "weird."

**Bernard Mayappo** folded the first goose in Eastmain. People here are predicting low nesting success this year for the geese. Final hunt results were not in at the time of printing but results so far are terrible.

Wemindji-ites were abuzz about the sightings of eagles, very unusual for the area. As for geese, one hunter in the local CTA said conditions were "lousy," geese arriving later than expected. Most days saw a North West wind. Also, it was cold, especially in the mornings. When the geese did fly, they flew high. First goose: **Danny Tomatuk**.

And finally in Chisasibi, the CTA reports that some had a successful hunt. Inland hunters fared better than coastal. New hunters Peter Brian Kanatewat, Robert Bearskin, Daryll Langdon, Curtis Pepabano, Simon Tapiatic, Steven Tapiatic, Sammy House and Harry Martinhunter all shot their first goose.

## JURORS CRY AFTER GUSTAFSEN TRIAL

The Gustafsen Lake standoff was the biggest RCMP operation in the history of British Columbia. Maybe even Canada.

Now the verdict is in on the 60 charges faced by the defendants following the 1995 standoff over a Native land claim. After a $1-million, 10-month trial, most of the charges have been thrown out. All but four of 16 defendants were acquitted of the charge of mischief endangering life, which carries a possible life term.

The jury came back with 39 acquittals and 21 convictions, mostly on less serious charges like mischief to property. Joseph Ignace, an Elder also known as Wolverine, was one of those convicted of mischief endangering life. His son, Joseph, who suffers from fetal alcohol syndrome and has a 6-year-old mentality, faced 12 charges, including attempted murder. He was acquitted on all counts.

There were tears on the faces of many on the 12-person jury as the verdicts were read. The jury included three Native jury members who held eagle feathers and asked to make a statement. They were cautioned they could be held liable for anything they might say. And so they decided not to read their statement.

The trial heard disturbing testimony about how the RCMP provoked violent incidents with the protesters and lied to the media about what was really happening at the standoff.

## PRESENCE AUTOCHTONE '97

*Presence autochtone 1997* invites the Aboriginal community to take part in this grandiose event. We call on everyone (Aboriginal organisations, artists of young and old) to come and celebrate with pride our national day of peace, joy and friendship.

In addition to attendance prizes, *Presence autochtone 1997* will give out prizes for the best banner, the group with the best outfit (organisations, dancers, etc.), the best outfit and the most original make-up.

Everyone is asked to gather at 3:30 p.m. on June 21 at Square St. Louis (St. Denis and Prince Arthur). Parade route: St. Denis to Ste. Catherine and to Berri Park. To register, contact Michele Audette at (514) 521-2714.

LES MINES

# INMET

*The Troilus Project is a division of Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally*

*The Troilus Project is situated 175 Km north of Chibougamau and is accessible by way of the Route du Nord. The employees will work on a 4-3 or 7-7 shift schedule and will be provided with room and board at its first-class camp on site. The company is presently searching for candidates to fill the following positions at its Troilus Project, an open-pit gold mining operation.*

## 1. THE POSITION: WAREHOUSE CLERK

The Warehouse Clerk receives, sorts, stores and issues parts and supplies for use by the mine, mill and service departments.

**THE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Completion of secondary school is usually required;
- Completion of specialized training for Warehouse Clerk is an asset;
- Two to three (2-3) years experience in a warehouse is preferred;
- Basic knowledge of French or English.

**MAIN DUTIES:**

The Warehouse Clerk performs some or all of the following duties:

- Receives and sorts incoming parts, supplies and materials using computerized systems;
- Stores items in an orderly and accessible manner, as per the established procedures, in the warehouse and other storage areas;
- Process incoming requisitions and issues or distributes parts and supplies for internal usage;
- Maintains records of amount, kind and location of parts and supplies on hand by physical checks;
- Operates warehouse equipment and tools;
- Performs other related duties.

**ATTENTION:** Human Resources Manager

**REFERENCE (THE POSITION TITLE):** 1. Warehouse Clerk

*Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian based mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally is presently seeking a dynamic individual to join its Troilus Project. The division is a non-unionized open-pit gold mining operation located 175 km north or Chbougamau, Quebec.*

*The incumbent will work on a 4-3 work schedule and will be provided room and board at the first-rate camp on site.*

## 2. THE POSITION: MINE GEOLOGIST

The Mine Geologist provides geological and ore control services to the geology department.

**THE REQUIREMENTS:**

- A University degree in geology, geological engineering or in a related discipline is required;
- A minimum of three (3) years of experience in mine operations, preferably in a surface mine;
- Working knowledge of French and English.

**MAIN DUTIES:**

The Mine Geologist performs some or all of the following duties:

- Assists in geological studies and works;
- Plans and monitors diamond drill programs, logs core;
- Provides geological interpretation on cross-sections and bench plans;
- Does excavation mapping for geological, economical and rock mechanic pruposes;
- Enters computerized data: drafting, ore reserves calculations, 3D geological model mapping.

**THE CONDITIONS:**

Inmet Mining Corporation (Troilus Project) offers competitive wages and a comprehensive benefits package. These positions are open to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation promotes Cree hiring. The Troilus Project thanks all candidates but advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates are asked to forward their résumé, at the latest June 21, 1997 to:

**TROILUS PROJECT**
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Québec)
G8P 3A9

**ATTENTION:** Human Resources Manager

**REFERENCE (THE POSITION TITLE):** Mine Geologist


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the Nation

# Five generation

Five generation there is a great great grama, that is very special like a beautiful rose, her name is Helen Mark from Mistissini Lake and she still lives today and everybody love her very much.

Five generation there is a great grand grama, that she beautiful like a swan and her name is Charlotte Wapachee from Senneterre and that she's the best, great grama in the world.

Five generation there is a grand ma, that is very beautiful like a flower and her name is Annie Mianscum Wabanonik from Lac-Simon and that she the best super grand ma & we love you.

Five generation there is a mom, that take care of her daughter to make sure that she knows all of them, her name is Irene Mianscum Wapachee from Waswanipi and she very happy with a beautiful daughter her name is Vicky Wapachee she's like everybody that was mention in the paragraphs.

From: Irene Mianscum & Vicky Wapachee

Happy belated Mother's Day!

---

# DAD

## (Michel Grondin)

Sometimes we do not realize how much you do for us.
You give us love and guidance that we can count on all life through.
You're always there when we need you, and always take the time to listen and understand
You do everything you can to help us succeed in life and in ourselves.
And when we have all grown, we will know that these are the reasons why we felt so loved and cared about.
We also understand how much you have done to help make our family a secure and happy one.

DAD, with thoughts of you, not only on this special day but everyday, and with loving thanks for all you have done and still do, and especially for being a good father, we all love you very much and always will... HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

All your children
xxx

# Crees get their Mountie

Constable Philip Moses graduated from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police training camp in Regina, Saskatchewan on April 1, 1997.

Constable Moses is a Cree youth from the community of Waskaganish who graduated from Roland Michener Secondary School in South Porcupine, Ontario.

He went to study Law and Security at Canadore College in North Bay, and Cambrian College in Sudbury.

During the summer holidays in 1995-96, he also assisted the local Waskaganish Police Force as a Supplementary Police Constable.

Throughout his last two years of post-secondary education, he began the recruitment process with the RCMP.

After successfully completing numerous written and fitness exams, Philip entered the RCMP training camp in September of 1996.

There, he spent six months undergoing intensive physical workout schedules, daily drills, as well as various driving and classroom training.

Some of Philip's favourite activities while enrolled in the training camp included weight-lifting and target shooting at the firing range.

Constable Philip Moses successfully completed his training this spring and is now stationed in Quesnel, B.C.

Proud parents are Malcolm and Virginia Moses, residing and working in Waskaganish.

*-by George Diamond*

# 21ST ODAWA POW-WOW

As Pow-Wows go, this one met all the expectations and then some. A Pow-Wow is a gathering of the people. A time to renew... old friendships, new beginnings. A time to trade, a time to dance and ultimately a time to rejoice. The winter is gone and summer, a time for the gathering of people, has arrived.

I was amazed at the number of Crees I ran into at the 21st Annual Odawa Native Friendship Centre Pow-Wow in Ottawa. Far too many to picture in this article but we'll try to give a small picture. I enjoyed the sight of Neil Diamond stubbornly chopping wood with a jackknife... er, hatchet?!? While I got to try out the boiled muskrat, unfortunately I wasn't around for the spun goose or moose on a stick. I guess in the end Neil's persistence paid off very tastefully. He, Charles Essau and Joe Blackned, among others, wisely chose the camping option that made this country food feast possible.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging my elder relative. She's not old enough yet to rate the capital E in front of elder. I happened, of course, to meet my favourite aunt... at the Pow-Wow, Maggie Petawabano.

I also met an old respected friend. His name is Marvin Burnette, a Lakota Sioux from the Rosebud reserve in South Dakota who does presentations, lectures, seminars on traditional dance, crafts and customs of his people. I couldn't resist the chance to interview this Vietnam veteran, who sometimes posed as a Buddhist monk in combat to fool the Viet Cong.

PHOTOS BY NEIL DIAMOND AND WILL NICHOLLS

**William Nicholls**

***The Nation*: Has this been the furthest North you've been?**

Marvin Burnette: Well, no, I was up at Big Cove, New Brunswick at a Pow-Wow. Maybe five or six years ago but this one here is more recent and quite a bit larger.

**Did you enjoy this Pow-Wow?**

Yes, the people were all so friendly. The Pow-Wow committee people were friendly. I had the distinct impression that they couldn't do enough for me. I really enjoyed it and met some interesting people. A lot of dancers and some excellent, excellent drums.

**I'm glad that you were happy with the drums.**

Very much so.

**Do you find a difference with southern groups?**

Well, not really. It's maybe a little different style of music, the northern sound. But it still has a northern beat and a dancer relates to the beat of the drum.

**Will you be coming back to Canada?**

Most definitely, yes. I never really realized there were so many good drums coming out of Canada. Another thing that impressed me is that this is one of the few Pow-Wows where the majority of the audience was Native people. I was very impressed with that. Down south it's mainstream America, not Indian people.

A lot of them perhaps out of curiosity, perhaps more of them just wanting to experience what Native culture is. I found it quite different where there was a majority of Native people being there.

**Did you find some of the same questions being asked? I'm sure a lot of people are curious when they find out you're a Lakota Sioux.**

Yes, I've had that question asked of me. I was surprised to find that there was a substantial amount of people that had roots or some type of beginning back in South Dakota. I ran into a number of people who came from or had been though South Dakota.

But there were interesting questions. How did you get out here?

**I would ask how often do you get back there?**

I'm from the Rosebud reservation. I go home every year. I go every chance I get. I go home July and August, especially for Sundance.

I would like to say that I felt I was very honored that the Odawa Pow-Wow committee people chose me to be the head veteran dancer.

When I was going up to Canada, I had in the back of my mind how different it would be dancing in Canada as a veteran as opposed to being one here in the United States. But what it boils down to is being a veteran is being a veteran, whether it's military experience or veteran experience, as far as helping the good of the

**Gino Odjick, the Algonquin Enforcer, making the scene**

people whatever reserve they may come from.

**So being a veteran doesn't mean just going off to war?**

No, there are those people who have stood up for the civil rights of the Natives, the indigenous people. That's another status of veteran, a veteran of civil issues, the civil rights of Native people. There are those with military experience also.

Both are allowed to participate in the veterans' dance. Especially down here in the United States we recognize that. Because there might be some individuals who might be disqualified for, say, medical reasons from military service. However, because of their support and activity as far as working with Native issues, they're still veterans of Indigenous or Native people.

**I noticed that at the Pow-Wow there was a table with Canadian veterans. Did you get a chance to talk to them?**

Yes, as a matter of fact, I got to talk to a number of Canadian veterans. In South East Asia and Vietnam, we had Canadian forces there, as well as well as veterans from other places. I took the opportunity to talk to some of the veterans on military affairs. I spent two years in Vietnam myself.

**How did you find it being Native and in Vietnam?**

At the time, it wasn't an issue. The issue was taking care of what we had to do there. There wasn't so much of an issue of black, white or red or what have you. It's always been an issue as far as civil rights go. It fits into discrimination of Native people.

**Now, you were chosen to be the head veteran dancer and I hear you're considered one of the best?**

Well, I don't know about the best. I enjoy dancing and do as much as I can at my age because I know at some point in the future because of medical reasons or something, that when I can't dance I can look back and say I did that. I feel good about myself knowing I danced with the best and at a variety of different places.

**I remember a jacket you were wearing once that involved a competition of about 5,000 dancers?**

That was down in Connecticut at the Mashentuket-Pequot Pow-Wow. They had over 5,800 registered dancers. In my category, the traditional dance, there was about 4 to 500 dancers. You dance according to age group. In my group I came in 7th. Somebody told me I don't have to be ashamed of that at all because it meant I was 7th in the world. I was very pleased with it.

But primarily it's just being able to participate, to be part of something as large and the magnitude of the Mashentuket-Pequot Pow-Wow.

**What do you feel when you're up dancing? Why does it feel so good for you?**

Cont'd on page 13

# In Memorium

The Crees mourn the passing of Annie Whiskeychan.

She will always be remembered as a great educator who protected and preserved the Cree language and culture.

She began her career in 1972 working for Indian Affairs in Rupert's House. When the Cree School Board was created, Annie taught for a year before being asked to develop, coordinate and assist in implementing Cree language programs. These are still in use today.

Other Crees will remember her for her efforts in getting parents involved in Cree education.

All of us though will remember Annie as a person who loved life and made us all a little richer for having known her.

She will be sorely missed.

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

It's the different things you think about while you're dancing. Who you are. Maintaining your identity of the Native people. Being a representative of your tribal nation and trying to maintain the culture and traditions, not only of who you are but all Native people.

**What kind of advice do you give out to someone starting out in dancing?**

Believe in yourself and what you're doing, and have faith in yourself and what you can do. That there is a lot to be accomplished. It all depends on the individual. Have a positive mind. Put the stereotypes, the prejudices behind and do what you have to do. What it boils down to is do the right thing.

Dancing helps Native people express themselves on who they are and where they come from because it helps to show our joy, our pain and despair. When you roll all that together, Native people... we are still here in spite of all the adversity—in spite of all the problems that Native people have had over the hundreds of years. The dancing and the drums show we are still here.

**I know that among the Crees, the drum was banned and in other places dances and ceremonies were banned. Do you feel it is important to get those things back?**

Yes, probably one of the biggest aspects of maintaining cultural identity is the youth. The youngsters continuing to use the Native language regardless of tribal affiliation. It's maintaining the tribal language. Just maintain that identity through tribal language.

**There's another aspect of your lifestyle I've always found fascinating, the fact that you check out the White "shaman."**

Oh yeah. I don't know what it is. There are a lot of people who tend to look at Native culture in a fascinating light in a sense that Native people do things in a different sort of way than mainstream America can understand. What our culture is all about. People are looking for answers for themselves. I don't know what leads them to the Native culture—but individuals who, for example, read a book, then by virtue of reading the book become knowledgeable about the culture of Native people. That perhaps makes them feel good. It gives them a voice of authority about what they've read. They try to display that as an authority figure.

Some of the people say this is what a sweatlodge is, a Sundance is or the use of a pipe. They may read about some of these things. They may have even experienced some of these things. Myself, I've shown people things so they will have a better understanding of what that particular incident or act is. That's only for their own knowledge so they will have a better understanding. It's very disappointing for an individual to take that and turn it around to somebody else and say come on with me, pay me a hundred dollars and I'll show you what a sweatlodge is. That's what is upsetting to Native people.

**So you don't believe any of those things should be paid for?**

Absolutely not. The land's in turmoil. The free life or the good life our ancestors knew years and years ago, all that's left is our spirituality and the religion we have is not for sale. That's the only thing we have.

**I remember you saying that one time you had heard someone saying at a demonstration they were going to sing a sweatlodge song, at which point you interfered.**

Yes, that was a couple of years ago. Out of curiosity I attended the Native program and the individual who may have experienced a sweatlodge and may have had a knowledge of some of the sa-

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cred songs associated with our religion—he used that for profit to display that to the public. Because it did deal with religion as practiced by the Lakota Sioux, I interrupted the program and told him no. He wasn't going to entertain the public. That he could do with other aspects than the religious.

**I remember you also talking about feathers.**

Well, the feathers we receive of course are honour feathers. As veterans we gift eagle feathers to a variety of people for different reasons. Generally for the good of the land and what they do. For the good of the people and what they do and so on. It's working with Native people for what they do for the good of the land or people.

**Would you have advice on making your own regalia?**

Well, it should be culturally oriented as to who you are and where you come from. For example, where I come from, the Midwest, northern Plains, beadwork is very prominent. Back before the arrival of the Europeans porcupine quillwork was prominent. It's knowing who you are and where you come from and what's culturally correct as far as what you wear and how you wear it. Everything is important, colour, shape, symbol and design.

For example, you take a Seminole Indian and put a bustle on his back. That would not be appropriate because those people would not wear a dance bustle.

**That goes into my next question. I've noticed a lot of tribes have borrowed from the Plains in making regalia.**

Yeah, I don't know why but there is generally not a lot of opposition or no ill feelings towards it if it's done correctly. If an individual wears honour feathers in a dance roach correctly. Wears a bustle appropriately, it's made correctly and he knows some of the dances and so on. That's not a problem as long as everything's done correctly. If someone's going to adopt the Plains style I'd recommend they find someone who could help them, teach them and could fill them in.

**Have you ever come across people who have done something inappropriately?**

Yeah, I've witnessed things from time to time from different people and Pow-Wows. Someone who will want to impress people and bring out the peacepipe and go through a exhibition or demonstration. Most Native cultures frown on that because first of all it's a prayer pipe, not a peace pipe. It's very personal. It's very religious and it's not for public viewing in that sort of thing. So there are things that are done in Native culture that are upsetting to us because there's a time and a place for everything. Bringing out the prayer pipe like that is not appropriate. This is frowned upon not only by myself or other people of a Native background.

**Is there anything else that you would like to share?**

Well, I can't thing of anything off-hand except this past weekend to me was most enjoyable. I had a good time. I enjoyed it thoroughly. I made a lot of new friends and I had the opportunity to say hello to a few old friends. People I have known for a while like yourself, I've not seen for a while. So being up in Ottawa at the Odawa Pow-Wow was a good social environment. A good feeling.

The organizers, the volunteers, the committee people. Everything well-run. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I look forward to coming back.

**Are there any others you'd recommend?**

There's a couple coming up. I've always gone to the one down at the Mashpee reservation, down around Cape Cod. It's pretty close to me during a major holiday in the United States, July 4th weekend. Then there's another coming up in about the middle of August. The Mohegan tribe who recently became federally recognized. They have a casino down in Connecticut and they're sponsoring a large Pow-Wow. I've been asked to be the headman dancer there, so that should be a very interesting Pow-Wow for me.

**Mohegan, is that in the last of the Mohegan's?**

No, no. There's Mohegan, Mohichan and MoHegon. There's three different tribes and they sound phonetically alike.

There's a variety of different Pow-Wow's and a lot of times being a dancer is important to me and it depends on which drums are there. Which might lead me to one direction or another. It depends on the people organizing, the MC, the head man/woman dancer or might be the organization sponsoring the Pow-Wow. There's several factors to consider in which way I might go.

I guess I can't go too far east from here but I can go north, west or down south. Every now and then some of my friends, say, we going to North Carolina and let's go. You get four or five vehicles together and go down for a four, six or seven-day trip. It's all on a whim. A lot of times these types of trips work out fine and are a whole lot of fun. You never know what to expect and that's half of the enjoyment. Just make the best of it and enjoy it.

*James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre*

# Public Notice

**The Annual General Members' Meeting of the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 18, 1997 at Eastmain, Quebec.**

The Board of Directors of the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre recently amended its membership rules. If you are eighteen years of age or older and a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, you are now automatically a member of the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre.

Members of the James Bay Cree Cultural Education Centre have the right to participate in the Centre's activities and to attend and vote at members' meetings. They are also eligible to be elected or appointed as directors of the Centre and are responsible for electing directors, appointing auditors and confirming the by-laws, rules and regulations adopted by the board of directors.

Incorporated in 1990, the objectives of the Centre are to preserve, promote, foster and develop the Cree language, heritage and culture. To date, the activities of the centre have included:

- sponsoring and coordinating annual Cree Elders/Youth Conferences;
- recording and translating legends and oral histories;
- publishing and distributing books relating to Cree Culture;
- assisting the Elders in setting up a regional and local Elders' Councils;
- conducting research on Cree history and sharing resources with other researchers;
- participating in national and international Aboriginal cultural conferences;

  **and**
- assisting communities and organizations with projects relating to the development of Cree culture and language.

The agenda for the Annual General Members' Meeting to be held on June 18, 1997 is as follows:

1. Approval of 1996-97 Financial Statements
2. Election of Directors
3. Confirmation of By-law No. 6 (amending the membership rules)
4. Other business
5. Conclusion

***For more information, contact Joanne Willis Newton, Corporate Secretary at (613) 825-6588 or fax (613) 733-1670.***

# An interview with Matthew Coon Come

## Election season

The rumours were flying for weeks, even months. Was Matthew Coon Come going to go for Ovide Mercredi's job as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations? Ovide had announced he was going to step down when his term expired this summer. Matthew was touted by some as the obvious successor. So we put the question to the man himself...

**By Alex Roslin**

**People have been calling to ask us if you're running for National Chief of the AFN. Are you?**

No. I am not running for National Chief.

**What made you decide that way?**

I woke up the other day, banged my head and came to my senses.

**Were you considering it?**

No, I wasn't really considering it. Other people had wanted me to consider it without asking me what I thought. So knowing these people were serious, my answer was no. I made a commitment to the Crees and I will stay with the Crees for my next term.

**At least this must have made you think a little more about what's going on at the AFN. What do you think about what's going on there right now? Do you have any views on their direction?**

Like any organisation, it has its problems. I think the AFN would have to assess and identify its priorities. I think it took a gunshot approach... Hey, that's a good one because I just came from the bush. I even fired a couple of rounds! (*laughs*)...

I think one has to be more focused and try capture the priorities at the community level. I think the AFN is now seen as being isolated, not in touch with the people's concerns. I think they must capture the national issues and try getting the Aboriginal angle on it.

I think national unity is important because that will determine the relationship the federal government has toward First Nations. The economy also—when they talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. I feel the people, Canadians, should understand that if you settle treaties and land claims with First Nations, it would dispell the notion of a cloud of uncertainty. No investor wants to come into any First Nations lands knowing they might end up in court for the next two or three years.

If the federal government or the multinational corporations that come into Indian land across Canada consider partnerships or joint ventures with the First Nations that would be affected, then I think it would be stimulating the economy because there will be spinoffs that will go to non-Native communities. It depends on the angle you give.

I think there's some work that needs to be done in that sense of reaching out to the grassroots level, seeking support rather than just dealing with the federal and provincial governments.

**There was some controversy when Ovide Mercredi got involved in the Gustafsen Lake dispute. Some Natives occupied his office because of the way he approached it. There's more and more of those kinds of disputes. If you were the National Chief, how would you have dealt with it differently?**

I think you would have to anticipate how the First Nations at the grassroots feel and that they want to reach out to the National Chief—because he's lost touch with them. I think those situations can be avoided. Rather than coming into any crisis situation between First Nations and non-Aboriginal peoples and coming in as a hero. You have to do a lot of backroom lobbying with the First Nations so you know what you're getting yourself into, so you know the situation, and not just jump in and try to be a hero. Sometimes if you get thrown into the spotlight and you don't know the issues, you can get yourself in trouble.

**What about the idea of one Indian-one vote at the AFN? What do you think about it?**

Well, I'm a great supporter of that. I think the Crees are way ahead on that. We discussed that in the Cree world many years ago where we felt our membership should decide, and not the chiefs. I'm not sure to what extent that would work. It would require a lot of work. You have over 674 or 675 First Nations communities. It would take a lot of coordination. I'm sure it would cost a lot of money. But I think one would have to begin to work toward that so the people will feel that the AFN is their organisation, that it represents them, rather than right now where it's just the chiefs who appoint him. That's the chiefs' National Chief, you know? That doesn't help the First Nations.

**The federal election is coming up. I'm**

**wondering if you have any thoughts about it.**

It's boring! (*laughs*)... It's so one-sided. It's fait accompli. I think there's a real lack of leadership out there and I think people are fed up with elections and asking why elections are called. I think the Liberals will get in, but when you listen to (Reform Leader Preston) Manning and (PC Leader Jean) Charest, the Bloc Québécois, there seems to be a lack of leadership or dealing with the real issues.

I think the people are pushing the politicians to deal with the essential issues and they are the driving forces rather than the leaders themselves.

**They don't mention anything about the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples even though its report came out so recently.**

"No. I am not running for National Chief."

That's not surprising. I think the Assembly of First Nations certainly hasn't done its job to raise questions with the leaders and the candidates and be in the right position to ask those questions. If you're not there you can't ask those questions.

For the Crees, all the leaders wanted to put national unity on the back-burner and it has come to the forefront. That's good for the Crees because those are issues that deal with Cree rights or Aboriginal self-determination in the context of secession. And the polls that came out indicate we have succeeded in informing the public not just of Quebec but of Canada that there are Aboriginal people and we have the right to choose who we want to associate ourselves with.

The fact that 92 per cent of Canadians outside Quebec support us is very encouraging, and 75 per cent in Quebec. That shows we have done our homework. When we raised the flag three or four years ago, nobody believed the statements we made. We have come a long way in raising the flag and Cree rights and Cree interests. Without having to jump up and down during elections, you still have to be reckoned with, and we have more allies which we didn't know we had.

But I wouldn't read too much into the polls. If you were to ask them I'm not sure they would understand what they are supporting.

**If you were at the AFN what would you have done differently to bring Native issues onto the election agenda?**

There are all kinds of forums. Just looking at the Internet tells you what the candidates are doing and where they're going to be, where the debates are held. So just show up and ask the question. But if you don't, well, you'll still have to be with this government, whoever that government may be. If you don't raise your issues, they're not going to raise them.

But I am deeply disturbed by Manning's comments. I think he certainly does not understand Aboriginal issues. I'll tell you his background. He was an energy consultant for big energy companies in Alberta. He was advising them against making any kind of long-term agreements with the Lubicon Alberta Indians. Here's a guy who has supposedly worked with Aboriginal peoples and that's his view. His experience dealing with Aboriginal peoples is to treat them as equals and give them a local form of self-government. This is a guy who doesn't understand this is Cree land, 144,000 square miles of land. We occupy every inch of it. We're not just in little reserves, in little communities.

I also thought he was very anti-Quebec. I never considered ourselves to be anti-Quebec. We were saying we recognized the aspirations of Quebec and their right to self-determination, but do not do it by denying our right. We aren't into bashing Quebec. I think he's really bashing Quebec as a whole. As one who lives in Quebec, I don't like hearing that kind of talk.

**Have you voted in an election yourself?**

The day I turned 18 I voted. I didn't know any better (*laughs*)...

**Who did you vote for?**

When I go to the booth that's between me and God.

**Are you planning on voting in this election?**

Of course I do.

**Which candidate do you think is the most suited to the Cree communities, to their views?**

Let's put it this way. I've supported Ethel Blondin (Liberal MP from NWT, Dene), Elijah Harper (Liberal MP from Manitoba, Cree), because they are First Nations and I believe their hearts are in the right place. I think they've gone a long way in terms of advancing Aboriginal rights inside the decision-making process. I really admire them for their courage. That's not to say the Conservatives didn't have their representative. I remember Willie Littlechild. He did a lot of work for Aboriginal peoples.

I'm well aware of the candidate in our area, Mr. Guy St. Julien. He was with the Conservatives; now he's with the Liberals. But I found him not to be a party guy. I don't mean in terms of being a party animal (*laughs*)... But he was always concerned about the region. When he appeared before the committees he was always able to ask the right question to help his riding. I felt he was representing the people within the region. He did a good job.

We have to deal with these guys. They're not going to go away. They are signatories to the Agreement. We have to deal with them.

**Do you think there's a place for a Cree candidate?**

The future rests on those young people and I would hope we wouldn't restrict them just to stay within the Cree world. The world does not revolve around the Crees. I would hope they would go into federal or provincial politics if they want to. I'm sure the Crees being very close-knit and family-oriented would support that candidate. I'm not sure they would be so concerned with the party they represent. Probably the fact that they are Aboriginal people would encourage them—depending on who they are... If it's not Neil Diamond from *The Nation*! (*laughter*)...

**We were already lining up which jobs we all wanted in his Parliament office!**

Doesn't hurt to dream!

CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI

MAMOU WEECHIDODOW

## Notice of Workshop

Mamou Weechidodow along
with the Aboriginal Shield Prgram
will present a workshop in Mistissini Lake,
Quebec (date to be determined).
The workshop will focus on a
"cultural approach to
substance abuse prevention".
All interested individuals
that work with the youth are welcome.

*For more information, contact Gordon Petawabano at the Cree Nation of Mistissini office (418) 923-3461 or Noah Coonishish, Prevention Officer, at (418) 923-3278.*

*We wish to express our pride and congratulate Constable Philip Moses of Waskaganish for his graduation from The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. We are very proud to recognize him as the first James Bay Cree R.C.M.P. We wish him the very best in his career.*

***Waskaganish School Parent Committee***
***Ecole Wiinibekuu School***

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NEW

# Three Views On forestry

The debate continues about the deals between tallymen in Waswanipi and the forestry companies. Chief John Kitchen, who promoted the deals, says the tallymen have no choice. The land is being destroyed and the regional Cree leadership has failed to address the problem of forestry in other ways. The CTA calls the deals a sellout of Cree rights. Here are three views on the issue.

**By Alex Roslin**

## John Kitchen - Chief

In order to better understand Waswanipi's position with respect to agreements between trappers and forestry companies, you must understand the context in which these were negotiated. To ignore that leads to an unjust view of what we have been trying to do.

Until now, the Grand Council and any other body representing us as a people have not taken the time to dwell seriously on the issues of forestry and natural resources, at least not in a way that indicates a will to develop an effective strategy.

It is fine to repeat without end that we have collective rights, that we have a duty to preserve our environment, that our culture and traditions are in danger of disappearing. All that fine rhetoric has led us nowhere for now.

Meanwhile,

- What have we done to develop a regional policy concerning trappers and forestry?

- Have we even tried to answer the concerns of trappers who see their lands taken over and used by forestry and mining companies?

- Have we tried to prevent the Quebec government from passing forestry legislation which directly affects our lands and resources?

- Why are we letting the government allocate forestry lands to companies without our consent?

- Have we even tried to take the time to listen to the trappers?

> "Until we seriously debate these issues and the formulation of a comprehensive policy, I as an individual Chief must do what I can in the face of a disaster."

While we are sitting on our hands, the trappers see their traplines disappear. The trappers of Waswanipi as a collective group have repeatedly asked our Council to do something to minimize the impact commercial forestry has on our traditional lands. Since nobody was responding, trappers were already making their own private deals with the forestry companies, and that practice was general. These deals were very dangerous to the trappers themselves, and to our lands as well as affecting our rights generally. The trappers, in the face of our leaders' inability to answer their concerns, have taken the matter in their own hands. For a few dollars, for a few pieces of equipment, and without the benefit of counsel from their own association, they were selling themselves and their lands away to the companies.

As the Chief of this community, I could not let that practice perpetuate itself.

Seeing that I would get no help from our regional leaders, I took the responsibility to initiate TEMPORARY measures to give back to the trappers a measure of control over their lands. The key word here is: "Temporary." I have exerted myself to explain that these agreements are limited in their nature...

(1) We have negotiated those agreements only as stop-gap measures to prevent a bad situation from getting worse.

(2) We agree that forestry and natural resources belong collectively to the Cree people. Therefore, we are expecting from our regional leaders that we act soon in developing a regional policy on forestry, natural resources and Cree lands applicable to all communities...

(3) Waswanipi will suspend these agreements the day we have a Cree national position on forestry accepted by all Chiefs.

Until we seriously debate these issues and the formulation of a comprehensive policy, I as an individual Chief must do what I can in the face of a disaster.

*Excerpts from a letter by Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen to Edward Gilpin, president of the Cree Trappers' Association, Dec. 6, 1995.*

Please turn to page 20

# Mario Lord - Hunter

***The Nation*: What do you think of the agreements some of the tallymen have signed with the forestry companies?**

Mario Lord (Waswanipi tallyman): I don't really know what to say about that. It doesn't really help me, I should say. The amount of the money they give us is like peanuts. But the other way is losing everything and not having anything.

I wanted to bring them to court at the beginning. Nobody ever really helped me since John (Kitchen, Waswanipi's Chief) was really too busy negotiating with the other companies. After, I thought I would go with John since he's helping a bit with the other people. But it seems like it's not really helping. It's like the first agreement I had with Donohue. I bought myself a truck. I'm only getting the cheque once a year. The car dealer can't wait once a year to get paid. So I lost my truck and I guess I should say I lost everything I negotiated with.

**It doesn't help you? Is that because it's so little money?**

Yes. Them, they must get what, a couple of million a year, I don't know.

**And they're just giving you a few thousand bucks.**

Yes. Pocket change.

**Did you feel bad about signing the agreement or did you feel forced into it?**

No. I was just seeing the way it's going. If we didn't agree we would get nothing, or we would lose everything.

"Before our hunting ground was cut, I felt like a millionaire."

**You had an agreement with Donohue?**

And with Norbord. Not long ago—maybe one year now.

**Do you think that's the way for the Cree communities to preserve their land, or is there a more long-term strategy with forestry that should be used?**

That's what I think, me. It would be better if it was longer-term than that instead of short-term. When they use it as a short-term thing, it looks like these companies are cutting faster. It seems like they want to finish faster. So they can finish the contract faster than what they expected.

**Do you think there's nobody helping the trappers deal with forestry?**

That's what I see right now. John used to be before, but since he's really occupied with the sawmill he's forgetting all about us now. Now I guess we're going to have to stand up for ourselves. These years now I'm not really interested in going back in the bush since there are no more trees.

**Is it the same for most of the other tallymen?**

Yes, that's what I see too. The only thing they do is stay in the bush, eat fish for a while, mostly small things. They don't make money out of it any more. Before our hunting ground was cut, I felt like a millionaire. Now I feel like a shoeboy.

please turn to page 21

**Congratulations**
to the latest university graduate in the Nicholls Family....
**Dorothy MacLeod-Nicholls,**
Who completed her Bachelors of Education at Concordia in the Teaching English as a Second Language Program. We are proud of you. Love from Ken, Will, Robie, Don, Eric and Elizabeth.

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# Matthew Coon Come - Grand Chief

***The Nation*: What is your view of the agreements the tallymen in Waswanipi have signed with forestry companies?**

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come: I think the forestry companies and all the other developers have the same approach as the federal and provincial governments in dealing with Aboriginal peoples. If they can't deal with the Grand Council, they go to the Band Council. If they can't deal with the Band Council, they go to the local trappers' committee. If they can't deal with the local trappers' committee, they go to the tallyman and make a deal with him. It's the usual divide-and-conquer tactic.

I think that's a little dangerous because we're a lot stronger standing in unity to defend Cree rights. Those are not individual hunting and fishing rights. They are not just trappers' or tallymen's rights. They are Cree rights. Everyone is affected.

I don't blame the local tallymen who seek their own form of compensation. I think part of the blame lies in the local trappers' association, in the Band Council, including our organization, the Grand Council.

"I don't blame the local tallymen who seek their own form of compensation. I think part of the blame lies in the local trappers' association, in the Band Council, including our organization, the Grand Council."

In terms of coming to grips with the implications and magnitude of going that route, I think it's very dangerous. We're trying hard to see if we can have a collective approach because, like I said, they are Cree rights; they are not tallymen's rights. Everyone is affected. If the local tallyman gets compensation what about the animals that are affected, animals that do not confine themselves to a tallyman's boundaries? If that animal is affected then the next trapper is affected.

**You say you don't blame them for signing those agreements. Do you think they didn't have a choice because nothing else was being done or was available to them?**

I think we as a whole, including the Chief and Council, the local tallymen, the regional trappers' association, the Grand Council, didn't really respond in a way that we should have. These things take time. You have to assess. You have to look at who is in the region. And that's what we have been doing. If you're going to go out and fight to protect your rights, you have to know who you're upagainst, what companies are in the territory, who has the wood-right concessions in a given territory, did they have their permits, did they seek their permits through the various environmental committees. And assess the economic impacts of forestry on the Cree traplines.

That's the work we've done. That takes time. And for a trapper who's on the frontlines and sees all this, he may conclude we are doing nothing. But if you want to go to court—which we will—you have to do your homework. You have to know who you're up against. I think any trapper should understand that. If a trapper wants to hunt an animal he knows he has to almost think like that animal and know his every move. We adopt the same principle in our strategy. It takes a little longer, though, so in that sense I think we're all guilty.

**Now you're saying there is a collective solution on the horizon.**

Definitely. That's what we would push for. But I think it undermines the Cree position to a certain extent when individuals proceed to go on their own. I think it erodes some of the collective rights that Crees have. But that's all internal. We have to have our own internal discussions about the whole issue.

**What is the collective solution?**

I think the Crees have demonstrated in the past that when they stand together they can achieve more. If you take one stick you'll break it easily. But you tie nine, 10 sticks together, it's very difficult to break. I think you're a lot stronger in terms of the position you can develop, rather than dealing with one individual who may not know his rights. All he's concerned about is if I get a ski-doo and a four-wheeler, I'll be okay, you know, and give me $10,000. Meanwhile, his ski-doo will break down, his four-wheeler will break down, his truck will break down. What happens to the next trapper who will inherit that land? What will he get? He will have already spent that $10,000. Those are the issues we need to come to grips with.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

I'd like to congratulate a friend of mine Rita Icebound and her boyfriend Elvis Moar on the birth of their daughter Elita Eliza Moar. She gave birth on April 29th in Val d'Or. Again congratulations. From Angela Etapp. (Wask)

---

We would like to congratulate our friend, Christine Sam, on the birth of her son, Duane Vincent Austin Sam, born on April 24, 1997, weighing 11 lbs, 12 oz. We wish you both the best in life! Love in friendship, Cathy and Nathalie Iserhoff.

---

Congratulations! to Tanya Jefferies & Chris Sutherland on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Kianna Allison Bryanna Aries born on April 4, 1997 weighing 9 lbs 3 ozs. Best wishes to you both on your new bundle of joy. With love from great granny & great grandpa Cheezo, & family & friends in Moose Factory, Ont.

---

A warm welcome to baby Tristan! Congratulations to sis Ella and Stan on the arrival of their first baby on May 15/97. A job well done guys. From all of us at House #10. (Mist)

---

On May 4, 1997, a baby boy was born to Tina S. weighing 6 lbs 5oz. Time was 6:02 a.m. in Chibougamau. Take care of the little one cause he's a precious gift from God. Wishing you all the best. Congratulations Tina. With love and friendship, Melanie P. (Mist)

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy belated birthday to Della Miller on May 10 in Moosonee. From: Reggie and Margaret Louttit. (Chis)

---

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my niece Ashlyn Joy Diamond Moore on June 14th. I love you with all my heart from your Uncle Murphy.

---

Happy birthday to our grandpa, Reggie Louttit on May 15. Love always, Julianna, Tanya, Tiffany, Andrianna, Bryan and Julian.

---

Happy birthday to a friend of mine, Lana Herodier on May 18. From Julianna L. (Chis)

---

Happy 18th birthday to my special daddy Joey B/smith on May 29. I luv the way you make me smile when I cry. Have a very happy birthday, daddy! Love always your daughter, Chantal M. Daphney G. B/smith and Maxine. xox Luv u.

---

This birthday wish goes out to a wonderful person in our lives, our mother Josephine. She'll be celebrating her birthday on the 18th of May. Mom, we love you so much and we would like to thank you for all the different kind of things you had done for us and also we thank God for giving us a special mother like you. Happy birthday and may God bless you and once again we love you. With love always, Marcel, Rachel, Janet, Edith, Roberta, Keena, Bernada and especially Darla Hesters. xoxoxoxox (Wask)

---

To a very special friend of mine, Janet Joyce Hester. I hope your dreams come true. Wishing you happy birthday on May 5. Sorry it's too late. We have fun on your birthday and many more wonderful years to come. Love in friendship, Amanda Jonah in Waskaganish.

---

Happy belated birthday to my friend Della Jane Hester on May 4. May your wishes & dreams come true. Happy 20th birthday. From friend always Janet Hester. (Wask)

---

Happy 1st birthday to a very special niece on mine, Coleen Trisha Sheshamush on May 18. I love you. With love, Christine and your cousin Jonathan. xox

---

We'd like to wish our son Terrence Neacappo a happy 5th birthday on May 20. May your day be as special as you are. With love always, Nancy, Ronald, Maureen & Tamara Neacappo.

---

Happy 4th birthday to our nephew Justin S. Gull on May 3 and to Casey (Nanawach). He'll be turning 2 years old on May 20. Have fun you two. Love always, Beegann, Wawa and Dellie Gull. oxoxox

---

Happy birthday to my son Gabriel Blacksmith on May 29th. I wish you all the best on your special day. The greatest gift I can give you is my love, a love that will remain in my heart forever. Love always mom, Nannie. xoxox

---

Happy birthday to Auklek on May 21. Events, family and obligations are taking first priority in our lives now, but know that we will be together again soon. And that you will be forever in my heart. Love Auklek.

---

Happy birthday to Marlene Neeposh on May 20 and also to Nannette I. Ottereyes on May 26. From a friend in Mist.

---

Special belated birthday greetings for Rebecca on May 12. I hope you have a wonderful day. From Mary Jane. (Wask)

---

Happy first birthday to our baby sister Amy-June on June 14. From Heather, Solomon & April.

---

Wishing my nephew Washeskun Jolly a happy 2nd birthday on May 24. Happy birthday and I hope your

---

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# CLASSIFIEDS

day is special cause you are so special. I love you. Love your auntie Jane. (Nem)

Wishing a happy 1st birthday to our sweet chubby little boy, Thomas Simon Atsynia on June 1st. You're very special to us. We love you very much. Happy 1st birthday and many more to come. Love always your brother Delmer, mom and dad. (Wem)

On May 29th, a Montrealer will be celebrating his birthday at the Dome. He's my one and only Karl Simard. We can't wait for you to take us for a drive with your sporty red Neon. Both missing you. From us girls Karly and Amanda Blackned. Still thinking about you, way up here. (Wask)

A special birthday is coming on June 9 to our sister Christine Joyce Jolly. I hope your day will be a special one and have a great time. Don't gou-gou (drink) on your special day. We love you Boo-Doo. From MJS, NJ, SSJ.

What we had once is now gone while my thoughts of u still endure. Happy birthday François! I hope you knew I was "crazy 4 u." Go figure.

An early happy b-day 2 Jerry Lameboy on the first of July. I just couldn't wait 2 wish u a happy b-day. Can't wait 2 c u again at our next tournament! I could fall in love with those eyes! Wask.

Hippy belated birthday to Louise Beum (O-Jay) on April 20th and to Joshua Loon on April 23rd (Mist) from Betsy, Richard, Vanessa and Vinny.

These birthday wishes are going out to 3 of my special friends, Colleen on the 20th, Mandy on the 23rd, and then last but not least Samantha on the 24th. I don't know what I'd do without you girls. In friendship always, Sabrina.

We would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to our daughter Paula Marie Salt on May 27. May your day be as special as you are, Sunshine. With love always, mommy and daddy. (Wask)

Wishing a happy birthday to my niece Paula Marie Salt on May 27. "Happy birthday Foolah." I love you with all my heart. Love always, auntie Cynthia Wischee. (Wask)

Happy birthday to Paula Marie Salt on May 27 and to Jordanna June Moses on June 7. Wishing you both a happy birthday & I love you both so much. Hugs & kisses. With love, Granny Ruby Wischee. (Wask)

A special birthday greeting for my baby sister, Paula Marie Salt who will be turning 1 on May 27th. "Have a wonderful birthday." With love your big brother Dwayne.

Wishing our daughter Twyla Diamond a happy birthday on May 16. We love you sweetie. Hope you have fun on your sleep over party. Love mom & dad, Lorraine & Eric Shecapio.

Happy birthday to our little cute niece Jordanna Moses. She will be 2 on June 7. Hope you have on your birthday and my all your dreams come true. From your aunts and uncles, Donald, Gloria, Cynthia, Samson and Henry. (Wask)

Happy birthday to my wife Kitty Longchap on May 25. I love you with my heart. Love always from your husband George.

Happy birthday to our mommy Kitty L. who will be celebrating her birthday on May 25..We love you very much. From your daughter Jennica and your son Daylon.

Birthday greetings to a special little boy, Cain Stewart, celebrating his 4th birthday on June 12. Happy birthday Cain! With lots of love, hugs & kisses from granny & grandpa Cheezo, aunties, uncles & cousins in Moose Factory, Ont. Hope that you have lots of fun on your special day.

Belated happy birthday to Fred Cheezo on May 16. Hope that you had a wonderful birthday Fred. Many more to come. With love from the Cheezo family in Moose Factory, Ont. Happy 4th birthday to Kyle Cheezo on June 12. Have lots of fun little big guy! From the Cheezo family in Moose Factory

Happy birthday greetings to my dad, Billy Diamond on May 17. Dad, I hope you have a wonderful birthday cuz you definitely deserve it. I just want to thank you for all the times you've helped me out. I really appreciate what you have done for me and my family. You've stood by us thru the good & bad times, thanks dad for being there when I need someone to lean on. You're an important person in both me and my children's lives. We will always love you. Love your daughter, Lorraine.

Happy birthday and happy mama's day to Beatrice Pet and to my dad, wishing you a wonderful day on the fourth of June. Love you both more than I did an hour ago! Christine.

Happy 1st birthday to Tamara Rosalyn Betsy Jonah on May 28, and happy 3rd birthday to Thomas Brian Matthew Jonah on June 15. Hope your days are special as you are. We love you and miss you. With lots of hugs and kisses. From grandpa & grandma Jonah. P.S. Thomas Jr. try to be nicer to your little sis.

A special birthday wish and many more to come to our grandpa James Jonah Sr. on May 29. With all our love: your grandchildren, Gerald, Geraldine, James, Thomas, Tamara, Taralyn, Arlene, Rueben, Sylvain, Joyce, Douglas & Darian.

Happy 14th birthday to my cousin Rebecca Otter on May 16. Don't drink on your birthday and good luck. From Kimberley H/jack. xoxoxo

Happy birthday to my only brother. His name is Mario Mamianskum. His birthday was on May 10. I love you. You love me. We're a happy family. With a great big hug and a kiss from me to you. Won't you say you love me too. I love you, brother. Love Jeannie.

Happy 2nd birthday to my special niece Jordana June Moses who will be celebrating her day on June 7th. May your day be as special as you are! Have lots of fun! With all my love from your auntie and namesake, Shirley (Wischee) Moar. (Wask) xoxoxoxo

Happy birthday to a sweet little girl, Jordana Moses who will be turning 2 years old on June 7th. I love you. You love me. We're a happy family. With a great big hug and a kiss from me to you. Won't you say you love me too. Hugs and kisses from your


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cousins: Andrea, Martina & Jennica Moar. (Wask)

---

Happy birthday to our mother on May 30th. Come and see us soon. P.S. We miss you and we love you. From Lori Chakapash and William Pachano in Montreal.

---

A late birthday wish going to Yvette on April 27. Happy 4th birthday, many more to come and may you grow strong and healthy in the years to come. I miss you. With love, Christine and your cousin Jonathan. xox

---

Happy birthday to my two sisters, Emma on April 10. She's 14 years old and to Lyne Coonishish on May 8. She's 16 years old. I know it's late but it's never too late to tell you both, I love you. From Christine and Jonathan. xox

---

Birthday greetings going out to our mommy Jeanette Blueboy on June 1st. You really love us very much and you're special to us ever since the day we were born. Love always Roland Jules & Tyler John.

---

Birthday greetings going out to a special friend of mine. Her name is Rachel M.A. Hester on June 21st. Don't party too much. Happy birthday! Friend always, Jeanette M. Blueboy. (Wask)

---

I would like to wish birthday greetings to Rachel M.A. Hester in Waskaganish. Her birthday is on June 21st. Happy birthday and many happy returns. From Roland and Tyler.

---

I would like to wish birthday greetings going out to Yvette R. Small on May 28. Happy birthday and many more to come. Don't party too much. From Jeanette, Roland & Tyler.

---

We would like to wish a belated birthday wish to Collin Rendall John Blueboy on April 11. Happy 1st birthday. I'm sorry I didn't see you blow your candles out. Love always auntie Jeanette and cousins Roland & Tyler.

---

Georgina, in the year of '93 you came into our lives with joy. You have given us everything what we always wanted. We loved you the moment you walked in. We have done the very best parenthood that we never experienced. You have given us the opportunity to become real parents, which I truly believe that blessing was sent from above. I just want to let you know I've tried my best to have u as my own but in our hearts, you will. Happy birthday to you on May 25 and many more to come. Love mom & dad (Louise & Norman) also sis Sam. xxoxx (Mist)

---

Happy happy belated birthday to Dwayne MacLeod on May 10. Hope you had everything you wished for. We love u so much. From Norman, Louise, Georgina & Samantha. (Mist) xxx

---

To my loving husband and a dad of two loving children. June will be a special month for you. Congratulations to you on your graduation day on June 7th, happy


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# CLASSIFIEDS

father's day on June 15th and happy birthday on June 20th. We are proud of you and we love you so much. Love and prayers, Kitty, Daphne and Patrick.

---

Wishing a very happy birthday to Melanie Gunner on May 31. God bless you through out the coming year. We love you. From mom & dad and brothers, Marvin and Delphis, sister Rebecca & nephew Clayton.

---

Happy birthday to my Supermodel friend Phoebe Blacksmith on May 10th. I was going to send you a Dolce & Gabanna moose hide outfit with the matching thigh high boots but, I heard you've gained a few pounds so, I kept it for myself for the next pow wow. I will send you the Gucci moccasins with the six inch heels you adore in my closet. It'll look great with all your fur coats. Love your small town girl (The one with the big city attitude) You work it girl!

## 300-PERSONALS

This one goes out to my uncle boy de da in Mistissini. I would like to thank-you from my little heart for taking care of me, while mommy and daddy are at work. I miss you boy de da. Love, from your nephew Brendan R. Jimiken. P.S. - mommy misses you too.

---

Attention Shania Twain! Romi and Michelle told me that you've gained a few pounds and we decided that we don't want to be seen with you anymore. Unless you get rid of all those layers of fat. If not, you could go back to the no no crowd where we got you in the firdst place. I'm pretty sure that Liz Taylor and Buffy Ste. Marie will be pretty happy to have you in their old rag, golden girl, groups get togethers along with their girlfriend Michael Jackson. Kiss...kisss...Love Cindy Crawford...And, don't forget Jenny Craig.

---

Mom. You probably are my best friend for you accept me for who I am. and I always go to you for advice and help but also just for good conversation. Sure we've had good and bad times, but there's never been a problem so large that can question the basic nature of our relationship. Happy mother's Day to my wonderful and terrific Mom Mary (Moar) Katapatuk (Wask) from your daughter who admires you a lot. Anita Rose Katapatuk (Wask) Luv ya Mom xoxoxo

---

Happy mother's day to my wonderful mom Josephine. Mom I would like to thank you for all the things that you have done for me. You've helped me a lot in many ways. You have always been there for me when I needed a friend. I thank God for a wonderful mother like you. Mom, you are a wonderful, caring and loving mother. Mom, I love you with all my heart. I'll never forget you. Once again, I love you mom with all my heart and soul. Happy mother's day, mom. With love always, your first born daughter. (Wask)

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Happy grandmother's day to my wonderful granny, Ella Hester. Thanks for all wonderful things you did for me. You are a special, caring and loving granny. You make me laugh all the time. I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you have given me and what you taught me. Granny, you have been a very special person in my life because you have always been there for me when I needed a friend. I thank God for a wonderful granny like you. Remember once again, I love you with all my heart and soul. Happy grandmother's day. From you loving granddaughter who lives with you. xoxoxoxo (Wask)

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Hello to Sarah & Farrah Hester, Trina Hookaimau, Jennifer Okaimau in Moosonee and also to Clymie, Celina, Evadney, Yvonne and Sabrina Hughie in Kashechewan. From #24, 10, 16, 77, 9. (Wask)

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Wishing my friend Diane Moar in Nemaska a happy first mother's day. I hope you are having fun with your bundle of joy. Happy mother's day. Love in friendship, Jane Jolly. (Nem)

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Happy mother's day to my mother Annie Jolly Sr. and a happy birthday

# CLASSIFIEDS

on June 3rd. Have a wonderful birthday. I love you mom and thanks for being there for me and for everything else. Love always Jane.

---

We'd like to wish our grandmothers a very happy mother's day, Doris H. Bobbish (Chis) and Annie Jolly Sr. (Nem). Happy mother's day and we love you. Sending our love all the way from Nemaska, Winnebego, Shawn and Carlton Bobbish.

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Happy mother's day to my wife and the mother of our kids. Only though this day comes once a year. We just wanted to let you know that your loved a whole lot by us. Once again happy mother's day Tanya Blackned. Love Barry, Karly, Amanda and Lyle Blackned. xoxox

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Happy mother's day to our grandma Pauline Etapp. Just wanted to let you know that we miss you a whole lot. You're the best and we love you so much. From your granddaughters Karly and Amanda Blackned and your only grandson Lyle Blackned. Hugs & kisses. (Waskaganish)

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We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the generosity and kindness bestowed on us during the recent loss of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Clarence Samuel Louttit. Too numerous to mention all the individuals and organizations that donated to the family and the words of sympathy or the time taken out of their daily schedules will always be in our thoughts with gratitude. Though it is never easy when a loved one passes on, comfort is taken in your belief of what happens after death according to your religious upbringing. Sadly missed and forever in our hearts, Margaret, Stephen, Wendy and our families.

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Happy mother's day belated to my mom Eva Iserhoff and my sister Nanette, Caroline, Karen, also my mother in law Christine Gull, my sister in law Lilian, Dorothy, Helen, Linda, Lana, and my niece Mandy and Emma, and my friend Sabrina Mark. Happy mother's day ladies and my the Lord bless you in special way. Sister in Christ, Diana Gull.

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Greta Gunner, if you read this, please write to me. My address is P.O. Box 313, Waskaganish, Que., J0M 1R0. Your sister FSV.

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To a very special friend of mine, Harry. Thanx for everything that you've done for us, especially for your love and support. We love you so much. With love, Christine and your son Jonathan.

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Happy mother's day to my mother whom I dearly love Mabel Gunner and to all my sisters; Evadney, Jane, Elizabeth, Caroline and Maria. P.S. Don't get fed up on your children even though rough times happen. Love you all.

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Happy Father's Day to Papa "Poolshark" -Love always from Alex and Rhonda. Also a big, big, BIG happy birthdaygoin out to "Yo, Yo, Yo" Michael. Yak vesit, seksulya?

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Congratulations to a wonderful husband and a caring father, Hugo Cowboy for a successful completion of his course in Recreation Facility Management and recieving the Aboriginal Achievement Award in Leadership. We are very proud and love you very much. Hope you attend your graduation on June 3rd. We miss you. From wife Sarah and daughter Amoo.

---


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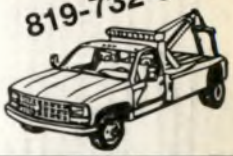

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***THE CREES OF THE WASKAGANISH FIRST NATION***

# *CONGRATULATIONS!*

*To CONSTABLE PHILIP MOSES who has graduated from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Academy. You are an excellent example of a role model for our Youth. You have shown that dreams can be fulfilled if we are determined and willing to work hard to reach our goals!*

*From Chief Billy Diamond*
*Waskaganish First Nation Council*
*and*
*Waskaganish First Nation Members*

# David VS. Goliath!

## The Challenge is accepted!!!

## The Bigger they are, the slower they fall!

In the spirit of friendly competition and good sportspersonship, the community members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska accept the WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE 1997 as issued by the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

Here in Nemaska, we are proud of our approach to healthy living and as we are entering a time of increased physical activity — we are confident in our members and their commitment to their continuing balanced lives.

Therefore, as previously stated, the key for the winning team will be Community Involvement!!!! The more people are involved, the more pounds (kgs) that will be shed. Everyone from all walks of life are included, from the Chiefs and Council of the respective communities, Band employees, CRA/GCCEA employees, Youth Chief and Council, clinic employees, school employees, teachers, students, police, daycare, providers and trainees, boarding home parents, foster home parents.....the list goes on!

The entry fee to participate is $5.00, which is payable at your local official weigh in.

With proper diet and exercise, we will win the contest. So, come on Nemaska, join-up — let's show Mistissini that we can work together, support each other and together meet the challenge!

For more information contact the following:

In Nemaska:
Nellie Coonishish (819) 673-2536
Kathleen Neeposh (819) 673-2188

In Mistissini:
Lorraine Badin (418) 923-3461
Jane Blacksmith

Contact people in each community should have a list of participants by June 1997.

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